

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and apparatus for processing items being shipped in containers with
memory devices. The container may include environmental sensors, a microprocessor,
and a power supply (e.g., battery or solar panel). The processing apparatus is configured
to interface with the memory device (e.g., using a wireless link) and read the memory
device to determine how the item should be routed. The apparatus may be hand-held or
built into a stationary apparatus such as a conveyer belt or an automated loading and
10 unloading station. The apparatus may also include a scale to weigh the item in the
container, and one or more digital cameras to capture images of the container and item.
The apparatus may interface with a central server, and may update the contents of the
memory device based on information from the server (e.g., to reflect a new final
destination).

15